

LONDON OPTIMISTIC AGAIN

CHEERFULLY EXPECTS TROUBLE FOR THE U. S. BATTLESHIPS.

No Signs of Depression in Shops Thronged With Christmas Buyers—The Persian Crisis Serious—Suffragettes Making Some Headway—Kaiser Complimentary

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
LONDON, Dec. 21.—Perhaps it is the approach of Christmas, perhaps it is some deeper psychological cause, but at all events the worldwide impression which has been prevailing for some weeks that the times were out of joint is disappearing as far as Europe is concerned. There is a distinct revival of cheerfulness and optimism in the public mind in regard to financial affairs and the press shows it. Holiday crowds radiate it. Even the weather inspires it.

People have been complaining of hard times for months, yet never were the throngs of Christmas shoppers so enormous. Some favorite shops have been compelled to charge a penny admission for their Christmas sales, otherwise the crush would be so enormous that it would be literally impossible to do business. A tired shopgirl in one of the big bazaars complained to me last night:

"Oh, I wish it was Christmas eve! We never had anything like this before."

The Camden Town murder trial has ended in the manner which public opinion demanded. It was lasted a few days longer one wonders if London would have paid any attention at all to the claims of Yuletide. Never has England taken such an absorbed interest in a tragedy of low life since the Ripper murders. Now there is only the Druce case for a local sensation.

THE BATTLESHIP CRISIS.

Practically the only contentious subjects with which the press is able to distract the Christmas spirit are America's battle fleet and Persia's threatened revolution. It is astonishing the importance which publicists all over Europe ascribe to the cruise of Admiral Evans's armada. It is doubtful if Americans themselves will watch its progress and the far reaching effects of this politico-naval experiment with greater concern and interest.

Comments on the departure of the fleet are curious and widely divergent, according to the point of view of the critics. Thus Mr. William Waldorf Astor's newspaper, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, is quite disturbed by recent American criticisms of the effectiveness of the whole navy. It describes them as a staggering indictment which seems to be founded on accurate official information and solemnly warns us that even if it is only partially true there can be no doubt that America's greatest interest is peace and that it is only in the United States that the cruise of the Pacific fleet need cause anxiety.

The *Spectator* kindly points out to us that "those who are responsible for the Union cannot forget that Japan, with her magnificent army and most efficient fleet, is inhabited by one of the proudest races in the world and yet a race which, if we are perfectly truthful, is constantly suffering from the rights and insults of the white races, which reject her people as immigrant citizens."

"In other words," the paper goes on, "American statesmen may well feel that it is possible that in some burst of unexpected emotion the Japanese people may insist on asserting their equality with the white races in all respects by an unhesitating appeal to the sword. There is, we believe, however, little or no chance of such an act of madness. The Japanese, with their keen intelligence, perfectly understand that on such a question the white maritime powers would be compelled to stand together."

PERSIAN CRISIS.

The Persian crisis is really a very pretty bit of national comedy, or tragedy, and one cannot but be thankful that England and Russia reached a good understanding in that part of the world before the situation became acute. Teheran is still in a state of siege. The deadlock arose in this fashion: The new Shah, who had subscribed to the Constitution granted just as he was dying by his father, fell under the influence of reactionaries who are practically seeking to restore the old despotism.

Last Sunday the Ministry resigned. Fighting broke out in the streets between the Nationalists, or Constitutional party, and the Royalists. The resignation of the Ministry was caused by the refusal of the Shah to expel his reactionary advisers who were intriguing against the Cabinet. On Sunday evening the Parliament was advised that the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior had been arrested. The Deputies demanded their release and declared that they would not leave the house until a satisfactory answer was returned. The British Legation then intervened and asked that the Premier be released. It was understood, very likely with good reason, that his life was in danger. The Prime Minister was allowed to depart for Europe as an exile.

The most important point is the failure of the Shah to effect the coup d'état which he had planned for Sunday and by which he proposed to expel all the Nationalist leaders and dissolve the Parliament. The Nationalists have appealed to the Legation for European sympathy in their struggle. It is not likely, however, that there will be any foreign interference unless much bloodshed and complete anarchy supervene. Neither Russia nor Great Britain desires to become responsible, even jointly, for anything like the Egyptianizing of Persia, so this ancient kingdom for the present must work out its own salvation.

THE SUFFRAGETTE FIGHT.

There is no phase of English political life at the present moment more curious and interesting than the development of the woman's suffrage movement. It is not at all impossible that its clamorous adherents will wring from one party or the other within a comparatively short time the full adoption of their programme. Their agitation has pretty well survived the stage of ridicule, and they have at last reached the position of a faction which compels political recognition.

The writer attended the first meeting of the doctors' league for woman suffrage held in Queen's Hall last Tuesday. It was a public meeting only in a restricted sense, admission being by ticket only and every precaution being taken to exclude the "little brown dog" agitators who copy the suffragettes' own methods and break up every suffragist meeting to which they can gain admission. So there were no live rats or offensive chemicals to distract and terrorize the female portion of the audience. There were prominent speakers, but faral Zangwill was the most enjoyed. He assured his audience that the struggle for woman suffrage was not a duel but a duel. Just as the owl did not make a priest, so petticoats did not make a suffragette and there were an army of suffragettes in trousers. He denounced the flagrant injustice of denying women equal recognition with men in their work in the professions. No matter how badly a woman might paint,

"There is no message of love, affection or esteem that cannot be conveyed in a book."

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he said, she could not be elected member of the Royal Academy.

The Rev. Reginald John Campbell, pastor of the City Temple, attacked the social side of the problem, arguing that suffrage for women would help to cure prostitution, because the resulting legislation would tend to put women's labor on a par with that of men in its financial recompense. "It is damnable," he exclaimed, "to educate women and then deny them living wages. It is the resulting poverty which chiefly recruits the army of prostitution."

Lord Russell criticised some of the extreme tactics of the suffragettes in breaking up all public meetings, but the audience, which was composed two-thirds of women, did not agree with him and there were many hisses. He modified them by assurances of sympathy with their cause.

It is said that the secret of the militant features of the suffragettes' campaign which first amused and has now compelled unwilling recognition of their claims by the leaders of both parties in England, is the advice given to the suffragette managers by former Prime Minister Balfour more than a year ago. He told them that only by extreme agitation at any and all times could they hope to gain their point. One may well imagine that Mr. Balfour is now sorry he spoke.

It was significant that at the above meeting, although the speakers discussed all manner of objections to woman suffrage, not one touched on the fundamental one which governs most objections in this country, namely, that it would fail to secure the sole object of all suffrage, that is, the expression of the popular will. Such a small proportion of women could vote that the result would be grossly unrepresentative and therefore undemocratic. The suffragettes have made no attempt to prove that English women as a whole want the ballot.

PLEASED WITH THE KAISER.

The English people have been pleased at the telegraphed reports of the eulogies passed upon them by the Kaiser on his return to Berlin. Speaking of the English typical dwelling system as opposed to the flat system of Germany, the Kaiser said: "A house, even of the poorest workman, had a comfortable, homelike atmosphere."

The Kaiser had been rusticated in a particularly well favored locality when he said this. He went on to say: "Englishmen are evidently great lovers of flowers, as might be seen in all their living rooms; while the houses were often covered with creeping plants. I would be glad if the dwelling house system were adopted more and more in Germany."

The Kaiser also repeated the stock compliment to the police regulations of traffic in London streets, saying: "English common sense is revealed everywhere."

The *Spectator* commenting on this says: "Most foreigners seem to be so much astonished at the fine management of traffic in London that they imagine it is typical of the Japanese, with their keen intelligence, perfectly understand that on such a question the white maritime powers would be compelled to stand together."

LORD KELVIN.

A well known man about town said to the writer, referring to the late Lord Kelvin: "I met him once at Aix les Bains, doing the cure. He seemed to me in ordinary life to be a very quiet, unobtrusive old gentleman, who found a great deal of pleasure in very innocent things. In fact, simplicity was his characteristic. I remember only one observation he made, namely, that he believed the pleasure in taste would gradually die out. This seems probable. The children of the upper classes to-day, for the most part, refuse to eat sweets. Most of the people one meets at dinner do not touch the cake. Last night I was at a dinner party of sixteen, where there were two oysters and a bird and no joint at all. Wines, except port and champagne, are now never seen at dinner, and hardly an unmarried woman in society drinks any intoxicant. But cigarette smoking is almost universal. Certainly this is not calculated to improve the palate."

A MILITARY RITING.
A Judge in the Chancery division rendered

The Weather.

The high pressure area from the Southwest had its centre over West Virginia yesterday morning, maintaining fair weather generally east of the Chesapeake Bay except for a little snow in western New England. There was a storm formation centered over western Texas and a disturbing area appearing over Montana, leaving a ridge of high pressure extending across the country from the Mississippi to the Pacific coast, in which section the weather was fair. Rain or snow was falling in Texas, Kansas and Missouri and rain in Washington and Oregon.

Warmer weather prevailed in the middle Atlantic and New England States, the Ohio Valley, the south Atlantic and Gulf States and in Arkansas. Opium winds, becoming fresh easterly, from the upper Mississippi Valley and upper Lake regions it was colder.

The temperature was above freezing in all the Atlantic States except northern New York, in which the temperature was below freezing. There was a small area of zero weather in Wyoming.

In this city the day was fair and warmer; wind, from southwest, average humidity, 91 per cent, barometer, corrected to sea level, at 3 A. M., 30.34; 3 P. M., 30.37.

The temperature yesterday, as recorded by the official thermometer, is shown in the annexed table:

1907. 1908. 1907. 1908.
9 A. M. 54° 58° 5 P. M. 52° 42°
12 M. 52° 56° 8 P. M. 52° 37°
3 P. M. 41° 48° 12 M. 35° 35°
Highest temperature, 52°, at 1 P. M.
WIND: SOUTHWEST, 10 to 20 M.P.H.—TO-MORROW: For eastern New York, eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, fair to day; snow or rain to-morrow; light variable winds, becoming southerly.

FOR NEW ENGLAND, fair to-day and to-morrow; fresh westerly winds.

For the District of Columbia and Virginia, fair to-day; snow or rain to-night and to-morrow; variable winds, becoming fresh easterly.

For western New York, fair to-day; with high southerly winds; snow or rain to-morrow.

For western Pennsylvania, show late to-day; rain and warmer to-morrow.

to-day an interesting judgment on a point affecting public policy raised in connection with the will of the Rev. Mr. Beard. The testator, who died in 1896, left his estate to his widow for life and then to his nephew Herbert, "provided he does not enter the naval or military service of the country." In case Herbert did this everything was to go to another nephew named Francis.

The widow died last year, whereupon proceedings were taken to have the proviso in the will in the matter of naval and military service declared inoperative and void as being against public policy. The Judge declared against the proviso on the ground that few if any provisions could be more against the public good and the welfare of the State than one tending to deter persons from entering the services. Such a provision, he said, struck at the very security of the State.

The Army Council has adopted a modified form of the Japanese bayonet for the British army. It is seventeen inches long as compared with the present bayonet of twelve inches, and affords a thrusting length of approximately 81½ inches instead of 56½ inches. Instead of being two edged with a double groove it is single edged with a back and single groove, slightly tapered to a point. The crossguard, with one side having a deeply curved or hooked terminal, facilitates the stacking of arms.

THE AMERICAN COLONY.

Very few Americans will spend Christmas in London. All who can will go to the country or the Continent. Illness will keep Mrs. Alair and Mrs. Ronalds here.

Mrs. Harold Baring will stay to oversee the improvements of a new house, as will Mrs. Hunsaker, who has taken a house on Charles street.

The Ridgely Carters are also doomed to face the gloom of a London Christmas.

The Duchess of Roxburgh will have a family gathering at Floors Castle.

The Hamiltons, McCormicks will go to Davos Platz for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. James MacDonald will pass Christmas in Egypt.

Theatrical people connected with the American companies will take advantage of the short vacation to make trips to Paris or excursions to famous English watering places.

P. F. Collier has rented Killen Castle, where he will spend the holidays hunting with many guests.

U. S. PROFESSORS IN BERLIN.

Hadley Talks on American Character—Prof. Schofield's Exchange Worker

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
BERLIN, Dec. 21.—President Hadley of Yale University delivered a lecture to-night before the students of the University of Berlin on changes in American character.

He described the nation's philosophy of life as overfavoring the wellbeing and comfort of the individual and thoughtlessness of the interests of society as a whole. As a result there were rash marriages and consequent divorces. He reproached the newspapers as searchers for sensational news and not sober guides of public opinion.

Prof. William Henry Schofield delivered the formal valedictory to the students of the University of Berlin to-day at the students' Christmas knapsack, prior to the vacation. The principal feature of the festivities was a play by Yeats, selected by the professor. It was performed by the students in English, Schofield coaching them.

Prof. Brandel, the head of the English department, alluded enthusiastically to Prof. Schofield's untiring work. He said: "The Harvard professor reminds me of the London cabman, who on having a holiday given to him, insisted upon driving another man's cab. Prof. Schofield came here on what should have been a comparative holiday, but he could scarcely have worked harder at home."

Prof. Schofield presented to the English library of the university a rare 1721 edition of Chaucer and said he would be glad to return to America, but that the next best thing would be to remain in Berlin. Prof. Schofield will spend Christmas at St. Moritz in the Engadine and will return to Berlin early in January for three weeks more of work. He will sail early in February for the United States.

The university authorities are annoyed by a report to the effect that the number of American students matriculating shows a startling decrease. The official record shows that 111 male students matriculated in the winter of 1907, as compared with 108 in 1906. As women students are not matriculated, but are admitted to lectures only as hospitantinnen, their number does not appear on the official lists. But of them about the same number were admitted in 1907 as in 1906, namely about forty.

PAQUIN'S RULE OF BEAUTY.

Woman's Form Should Display Unity and Variety, He Declared

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
LONDON, Dec. 21.—The death of Paquin, the Paris dress designer, recalls his dictum: "The chief components of true beauty in the female form are unity and variety. Beauty demands the coexistence of these attributes, the former for the satisfaction of sensibility and the latter for the satisfaction of intelligence. There is one thing we dressmakers seek more than all else in a perfect figure for woman, and that is line."

Paquin's real name was Isidore Jacob. His nationality was the cause of a stormy debate in the Chamber when the Cross of the Legion of Honor was conferred upon him at the time the anti-Semite fever was at its height.

LOOKS LIKE VENETTA MURDER.

Man in Italian Railway Carriage With Head and Heart Pierced.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
ROME, Dec. 20.—When a train from Rome to Ancona arrived at Foligno at 3 o'clock this morning a man was found dead in one of the carriages. Apparently it was a case of murder.

The victim had been stabbed through the heart and a stiletto had transfixed his forehead and come out through one of his eyes. There is no clue to the murderer. It is likely that the murdered man was stabbed while asleep and it is generally thought that the murder is a vendetta crime.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year

How much kindly feeling and good will these greetings convey. Be lavish with them. Talk them, write them, Telephone them.

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Our fine boxes of Chocolates and Bonbons are unequalled in style and make handsome and most acceptable Christmas Gifts. Baskets, Fancy Boxes and many other of this season's novelties in stock. We advise an early call. Don't wait until the day before Xmas—make your purchases earlier in the week, while our store is not overcrowded. Many patrons who wait until the last moment we shall have to disappoint. Come early and avoid the rush.

A Souvenir FREE to Each Purchaser.

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BROKEN CANDY 15c
MOLASSES BLOW CANDY 25c
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ODDITIES OF PARIS LIFE

DROP IN FRENCH MINISTRY'S POWER GOES UNNOTICED.

Question of Church Legacies Still Debated—Dangers of Shaving—Chance to Hit at America—Ghost of the Old Black Cat—Story of the First Napoleon.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—The matter of the separation of Church and State is no longer a question in France; it is accomplished fact. But the subject still serves for political discussion, both among the clericals and the anti-clericals, though it must be said that it occupies a small place in popular discussions. The place is as small in fact as the solemn action of the French hierarchy in forbidding the faithful to read a journal of wide circulation in the south of France because of its attitude on this subject.

The question of church property, however, like property anywhere on which contentious eyes may be cast or which the virtuous may be called upon to defend from covetousness, is still to some degree open and, as naturally as necessarily, engages the attention of parliamentary politicians. In connection with the discussion on this point there was a humorous incident in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday.

The incident was not only illuminating in regard to the church question, but it threw an unexpected light on the political situation the significance of which escaped attention yesterday but has been emphasized to-day through efforts to contract the impression that it would naturally although unexpectedly convey.

For many months there has been no important question before the Chamber of Deputies on which the Government has not had a large plurality. Yesterday, as typical of the majority of the original majority fell to twenty-eight, only to be altered by corrected figures in to-day's official journal to 154. The question before the House was that of the disposition of legacies left through a century to the Church for masses and other specific objects wholly religious.

Various factions, realizing that the Church could not hope to retain them under the separation act, sought to enable the direct or collateral heirs of the original donors to recover them, while the supporters of the separation law aimed to have them diverted to the benefit of departments, communes or the State itself and works of public charity. M. L'Hopiteau, Deputy from Eure-et-Loir, who as a Republican Radical is regarded as a bloc supporter, moved an amendment permitting departments and communes to fulfill the conditions of legacies by hiring priests to say masses.

M. Briand, Minister of Education and Public Worship, refused to accept the amendment, saying that the Church had had an opportunity to safeguard such legacies through the formation of associations *ultérieures*, which could have had all the masses performed. Since the Church had refused to do this, the Minister said, it must accept the consequences, as it was directly responsible for the State in the display of its branches to undertake to provide for masses or to hire priests for any such purpose. The State under the law could not play any such part without effecting what was tantamount to a renewal of the Concordat.

The defeat of the amendment by 301 to 278 gave the Government the smallest majority in a long time, but even the opposition failed to exploit this situation as it until to-day, when the official journal published what is called a rectification of the vote, giving the figures as 344 to 193, and indicating that on a list shown down the Deputies rallied to the support of the Government.

The Chamber passed M. Briand's church legacy bill as a whole to-day by a vote of 354 to 171.

Whatever motions may have contributed to the curbing of division of Friday in the display of M. Clemenceau as being as firm a master as ever, the Temps cannot refrain from observing that repentance has been quickly accomplished. This is scarcely likely to enhance the prestige of the present Parliament.

Frenchmen have found a new reason for wearing their beloved beards. It lies in the danger of shaving, which increases the danger of a kind of cancer as they can scarcely be expected to forego, or they can shave faces which is incidental to a certain partiality shown by younger Frenchmen for English and American fashions is likely to have found another discouragement.

"We have heard much in America about the dangers of beards as microbe carriers. Possibly this was an opus of gallantry calculated for the defense of women in France. Although the world bears much of gallantry which has come to be more or less mythical or traditional, men are looking out for themselves first to a very large degree as a philosophical duty.

The disclosure of the dangers of clean shaving came through a pathetic and almost tragic incident. A man went to the Pasteur Institute with his cheek marked by a mark which he believed as they called it, the danger of women in France. The physician, a personal friend of his, informed him that this was not so, but that the mark was that of a formidable and infectious disease and was

unquestionably due to his being kissed immediately after shaving.

When the outer layer of skin is removed by the razor the face is in the finest condition to be a prey to microbes of the worst and most contagious diseases. Experiments on guinea pigs and rabbits have shown that if the skin is shaved and the microbes of the plague or tetanus is merely placed on the freshly shaved surface the animals immediately took the disease.

The scandal concerning the Interborough-Metropolitan Railway tangle in New York are being circulated most industriously here, just as some time ago the beef and insurance scandals were circulated by those who enjoy flings at Americans. The latest commentator remarks that Panurge had many ways of gaining money, of which the most honest was through a sort of larceny which was fictitiously accomplished.

He goes on to say that the founders of the Inter-Met could have taught him many more ways. In an extended display article the writer exclaims: "If these practices of those transatlantic heroes of money whose qualities we are asked to admire were employed in civilized countries their authors would run a great risk of being quickly haled to court."

Montmartre's famous cabaret, the Chat Noir, though ten years dead, does not fail to figure at short intervals in Paris life. It was brought again into prominence this week on the admission to the Academy of Maurice Donnay, who replaced Albert Sorel.

Donnay, who began life as an engineer, relinquished mechanics to recite in the Chat Noir, where the waiters in derision wore the garb of academicians, including the embroidered palms, and the thirty shouted: "Immortal, bring me a beer."

In twenty years he passed through witty plays to the academic seat of the late historian whose virtues he struggled to extol to the great enjoyment of the audience which had assembled to hear his entrance address and who thought they detected his difficulties and want of sympathy in endeavoring to praise the work of a man so different from himself in style and thought. Donnay himself referred contemptuously to the days of his early gibes at the august body.

M. Bourget in reply said the Academy didn't mind those things, as intelligent people only ridicule those whom they envy and therefore ridicule was pleasant.

The latest ascension of the balloon Ville de Paris lasted three hours. In a good wind it made twenty-five miles an hour. The balloon first went to windward and then turning came down on the wind when it made a speed of sixty miles an hour.

A centenarian Parisienne who died this week lived for the last half century in the Faubourg St. Honoré. She amused herself by raising pigeons which all travelers have seen on the Place de Vendôme and the Ministry of Finance. Her name was Mme. Lottin. When a child she was watching the review of troops behind the Tuilleries when she got so far ahead of the line of spectators that as Napoleon came along he grabbed her to keep her from being run over and seated her on the saddle before him on his dapple gray horse. This story of late years she has been fond of relating.

EX-CONVICT GETS A FORTUNE.

First Act One of Kindness to Former Fellow Prisoners—Italian Romance

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

MILAN, Dec. 21.—After having spent half his life in prison or under police supervision a man of the name of Pasquale, 45 years old, has become through the death of an aunt the owner of a great fortune and the proprietor of villas at Como and Gravedona.

His last sentence was in 1906, when he was condemned for four years. While he was working in the prison colony on the island of Lampedusa, news came of the death of his aunt. On being released Pasquale married a widow with one son. He passed the first days of his liberty luxuriously at Como, but soon became homesick for Lampedusa, where he returned and completed his honeymoon within sight of his former prison.

His first action on receiving the money from his aunt's will was to send to Lampedusa a great clock which chimed the hours. He gave the prisoners sometimes found that the dark unbroken silence of the nights, which were almost unbearable, would have been greatly relieved if they could only know how many hours were yet to be passed before daylight.

MOORISH OUTBREAK IN FEZ.

Mahometans Sack Part of the Capital of Sultan Abdul Aziz.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
PARIS, Dec. 21.—Serious disturbances are reported from Fez. It is said that the disaffected Moors have sacked part of the town.

Fez is the capital of the Sultan Abdul Aziz, but he is not there now, not having yet returned from his march to Rabat on the Atlantic coast.

Mrs. Osborn as "Mme. Butterfly."

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
BRUSSELS, Dec. 21.—It is reported from Leipzig that Mrs. Tenney Osborn, wife of the Consul, has made a successful appearance as Mme. Butterfly in the opera of that name.

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THE STORE WILL CLOSE DEC. 23RD AND 24TH AT 7 O'CLOCK

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Perfumes and Extracts	House Coats and Robes for Men
Slippers for Men and Women	Umbrellas and Canes
Fur-lined Overcoats for Men	Automobile Requisites
Leggings for Boys and Girls	Furs and Fur Garments
Leather Requisites	Fur-lined Gloves for Men and Women
Gloves of Leather and Fur	Waists and Silk Skirts
House Garments for Women	Glove and Merchandise Bonds

And a delivery service that never makes excuses.

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Will Hold a Special Sale of

140 Fur-lined Coats for Women

at prices greatly reduced

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Selected fur linings and large shawl collars of black lynx, Persian lamb or squirrel.

Regularly \$39.50 to \$45.00	At \$25.00
Regularly \$75.00	At \$49.50
Regularly \$98.50	At \$69.00
Regularly \$115.00	At \$79.00

150 Karakul Cloth Coats

Three quarter or full length models.

Regularly \$35.00	At \$22.50
Regularly \$39.50	At \$2